

Unit 3 Instructional Strategies

Students need to apply properties of operations (commutative, associative and distributive) as strategies to multiply and divide. Applying the concept involved is more important than students knowing the name of the property.

Understanding the commutative property of multiplication is developed through the use of models as basic multiplication facts are learned. For example, the result of multiplying 3×5 (15) is the same as the result of multiplying 5×3 (15).

To find the product of three numbers, students can use what they know about the product of two of the factors and multiply this by the third factor. For example, to multiply $5 \times 7 \times 2$, students know that 5×2 is 10. Then, they can use mental math to find the product of 10×7 (70).

Allow students to use their own strategies and share with the class when applying the associative property of multiplication.

Splitting arrays can help students understand the distributive property. They can use a known fact to learn other facts that may cause difficulty.